

US NORTH AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE COMMITTEE  
DRAFT CHARTER  
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**GOAL**

The goal of North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) and the US NABCI Committee is to deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation through regionally-based, biologically-driven, landscape-oriented partnerships.

**PURPOSE**

The US NABCI Committee exists to perform the following three functions:

- 1) to represent the United States internationally in the NABCI;
- 2) to foster coordination among United States-based bird conservation initiatives and integrated delivery of conservation activities by providing a forum for interaction;
- 3) to identify and facilitate the delivery of those resources needed to achieve conservation objectives for the birds of the United States wherever they may occur over the course of their entire life cycles.

**PHILOSOPHY**

The US NABCI Committee will play a leadership role in identifying and building support for common bird conservation objectives through development of a shared vision. Such a shared vision can be a powerful tool for increasing partnerships for comprehensive bird conservation while preserving the independence of various initiatives and partners. The US NABCI Committee will not set policy but will establish a framework within which its constituents and other groups can contribute their unique approaches to achieving this vision.

**AUTONOMY and PARTNERSHIPS**

The US NABCI Committee is an autonomous self-directing partnership. Its existence and success depend entirely on its relationship and accountability to key partners. Included among these are the bird conservation initiatives for which the US NABCI Committee provides a forum for interaction. Also critically important is the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, particularly the Bird Conservation Committee in which much of the genesis of the US NABCI Committee occurred. The US NABCI Committee strives to represent all perspectives of those involved in bird conservation. It is of paramount importance for US NABCI Committee members both to inform their constituency of US NABCI Committee activities and benefits and to bring issues from constituents to the US NABCI Committee for discussion and resolution.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The US NABCI Committee may add or delete members over time, adapting to changing conditions in the bird conservation community, without revising this Charter. Members will designate their US NABCI Committee representatives for two-year terms and representatives may serve multiple terms. There are 22 members of the US NABCI Committee, consisting of one representative from each of the following agencies, organizations, initiatives, or committees:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Director or designee)  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (President or designee)  
Partners in Flight  
North American Waterfowl Management Plan  
U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan  
Waterbird Conservation for the Americas  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Ducks Unlimited  
National Flyway Council  
Resident Game Bird Working Group of the Association of Fish and Wildlife  
Agencies  
Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Working Group of the Association of  
Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
U.S. Geological Survey  
U.S. Forest Service  
American Bird Conservancy  
The Nature Conservancy  
The National Audubon Society  
Farm Service Agency  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Joint Ventures  
Bureau of Land Management  
Department of Defense  
National Park Service

If a US NABCI Committee member is consistently absent from US NABCI Committee meetings, the US NABCI Committee has the right and obligation to review that membership. However, all attempts will be made to keep a member on the US NABCI Committee

#### DECISION-MAKING

Decisions will be made by consensus where possible. In situations in which consensus is not achieved and the chair determines that a decision is required, a motion will pass only with a vote of at least 2/3 of the members or their designated alternates present. The US NABCI Committee may by consensus entrust the chair with the authority to make specific decisions.

#### US NABCI COORDINATOR and STAFF

A US NABCI Coordinator will assist the chair and US NABCI Committee members in advancing the US NABCI Committees priorities. The Coordinator will be employed by an organization or agency committed to NABCI. The Coordinator will carry out activities that advance the purpose and goal and priorities of the US NABCI Committee. The US NABCI Committee chair will direct activities of the Coordinator.

Each US NABCI Committee member will designate one or more individuals to serve, along with the Coordinator, as US NABCI Committee Staff. A US NABCI Committee

member may also designate themselves as Staff. Staff will be available as needed to assist the US NABCI Committee member they represent, the chair, and the Coordinator in advancing the interests of the US NABCI Committee. Staff will be responsible for communicating with their US NABCI Committee member for upcoming meetings, participating in a conference call prior to each meeting of the US NABCI Committee and participating in other conference calls and subcommittee activities as necessary.

## SUBCOMMITTEES

The US NABCI Committee recognizes the following Subcommittees—monitoring, conservation design, communications, private lands, and international (temporarily disbanded). The Tri-national NABCI Committee (see below) is made up of one representative from each of the following—Federal agency, State agency and nongovernmental organization. The Tri-national designees will be members of the International Subcommittee (when active). A member of the US NABCI Committee will chair each Subcommittee. Subcommittees can be created or disbanded, as the US NABCI Committee deems necessary to meet its priorities.

## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The US NABCI Committee will designate three international representatives from the International Subcommittee to the Tri-national NABCI Committee. One of these representatives will be from the Federal government, one from the state wildlife agencies, and one from an NGO. International Representatives may or may not be members of the US NABCI Committee or Committee Staff, but communication between each representative and the US NABCI Committee must be assured. International Representatives to the Tri-national NABCI Committee will serve terms of two years, but may serve multiple terms. The Coordinator will assist in serving the US NABCI Committee on international issues including participation in activities of the Tri-national NABCI Committee.

## ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND QUORUMS

Every US NABCI Committee member is expected to attend every US NABCI Committee meeting or to send an alternate to submit a proxy for participation in any decisions or votes that may take place at a meeting. There will be no official business completed without the presence of 2/3 of the members of the US NABCI Committee (including those represented by alternates or proxies).

US NABCI Committee meetings shall be open to alternates, staff, or other invitees of US NABCI Committee members, members of the Subcommittees to the US NABCI Committee, and any other interested party. Although the US NABCI Committee welcomes such attendance, it is not under obligation to advertise meetings in any particular or general venue.

## REVIEWING THE CHARTER AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

This Charter and US NABCI Committee Structure will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

